

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 10-12 and 15 and delete claims 2, 4, 6, 9, 13, 14 and 16 as set forth in the complete listing below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1.(Currently Amended) A multi-purpose dental tool, comprising:

a handle formed as an elongate shaft having an [intergal ends] operative first end and a second end;

a dental mirror integrally attached to the operative first end of said handle shaft; and

a measuring device comprising a channel formed integrally in said the second end of the handle shaft and defined by an open-faced groove having a semi-circular cross-section adapted to conform to and receive an existing root canal file inserted lengthwise therein, said groove opening distally into the second end of said shaft and opening extending open-faced from to the second end along a length of said handle, and measuring lines equally-spaced along said shaft proximate said channel for demarcating an extent of said channel relative to said second end;

whereby said open-faced groove positions and secures said file therein, and said measuring lines provide a visual indication of an extent to which a root canal file is inserted therein.

2.(Canceled)

3.(Currently Amended) The multi-purpose dental tool of claim 2 1, wherein said measuring lines are marked in millimeters with major intervals marked at every 5 millimeters.

4.(Canceled)

5.(Currently Amended) The multi-purpose tool of claim 1 4, wherein said dental mirror is circular mirror having an approximate 22-24 mm diameter and mounted on said elongated shaft at an angle of approximately 45 degrees.

6.(Canceled)

7.(Currently Amended) The multi-purpose dental tool of claim 1 6, wherein said groove extends into the second end of said shaft approximately 30 mm lengthwise along said shaft adjacent said measuring lines, for receiving and measuring said root canal file.

8.(Previously Presented) The multi-purpose dental tool of claim 7, wherein said groove is semi-circular in shape with a diameter of approximately 1.0 mm and a radius of approximately .5 mm.

9.(Canceled)

10.(Currently Amended) The multi-purpose dental tool of claim ~~10~~ 7, wherein said internal channel is cylindrical in shape having a diameter of approximately 1.0 mm.

11.(Currently Amended) The multi-purpose dental tool of claim 3, wherein said ~~shaft is~~ handle and measuring device are integrally formed from an autoclavable and chemiclavable material consisting of one from among the group of fiberglass, plastic, ABS plastic, glass filled resin, stainless steel, nickel chrome steel, and polymers.

12.(Currently Amended) A dental instrument for measuring a distance, comprising:

a shaft having an open-faced channel, for receiving a portion of a root canal file, running approximately thirty millimeters along its length and opening to an one end of said shaft, said open-faced channel having a width, ~~and depth, and cross-section adapted to conform to and seat~~ said root canal file when inserted lengthwise therein, of sufficient dimensions to freely receive a ~~root canal file~~ and to allow for a said root canal file to freely slide along the length of the channel;

a dental mirror integrally attached to another end of said shaft; and

measuring lines marked on a top surface of said shaft along the length of said channel and adjacent to said channel for providing a visual indication of an extent to which said root canal file is inserted into said channel relative to the open end of said shaft;

whereby said open-faced channel positions and secures said file therein, and said

measuring lines provide a visual indication of an extent to which said root canal file is inserted therein.

13.(Canceled)

14.(Canceled)

15.(Currently Amended) The dental instrument of claim 12 ~~13~~, wherein the channel is approximately 1.0 millimeter in width and approximately 0.5 millimeters in depth.

16. (Canceled)